

# **FOR** Québec

Québec Liberal Party Platform



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**FOR**  
**Québec**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

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The Québec economy has made great strides since 2003. Today, we hold a leadership position among the world's most prosperous nations.

**A strong economy  
is the driving force  
behind the Québec  
Liberal Party.**

Throughout the generations, our political approach has enabled us to consistently unveil new prospects that harness the ambitions of Quebecers and ensure the economic development of our province.

Today, the Québec Liberal Party continues to offer new horizons and to break new ground as it strives to ensure our economic future.

We urge Quebecers to unite and embrace the challenge that encompasses all of our aspirations – that of achieving full employment.

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## **We are urging Quebecers to unite to embrace a challenge that encompasses all of our aspirations – that of achieving full employment.**

We are urging all Quebecers to participate in the economic vitality of Québec, and for each and every individual to have the opportunity to achieve their ambitions.

We have set our sights on the creation of 250,000 jobs over the next five years. To make this possible, we will launch the Plan Nord, which aims to create jobs in all regions of Québec and to develop new industrial avenues.

We fully intend to involve all economic sectors and all of our development springboards as we launch this major initiative towards full employment.

We will affirm our leadership by promoting a sustainable economy that is respectful of the environment.

We will forge new ties with emerging countries such as China, India, and Brazil, which have become the driving forces behind the global economy. Furthermore, we will strengthen our economic ties with Europe and with our neighbours to the south

We want Québec talent to be expressed around the world.

It is by developing our economy that we will succeed in reducing the weight of our debt and in investing in vital missions centering on health, education, and families.

## **The choice is clear for Quebecers.**

Within the Québec Liberal Party, we have made the decision to prioritize the economy and employment in order to acquire the means to invest in our healthcare and education systems and to pass on to future generations healthy public finances.

Of course, Quebecers also have the choice to follow the path set by our adversaries.

This path is one of division and referendums. It is the path of introversion and missed opportunities. Québec deserves better.

Together, let's build a society that is modern, conducive to job creation, respectful of the environment, and worthy of the ambitions and talents of all Quebecers.

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Jean Charest

# 01

## FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

Our sound economic performance since 2003 has enabled us, together, to make remarkable progress with respect to employment.

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- ▶ We have created close to 400,000 jobs since 2003. Never before have so many Quebecers been working;
- ▶ The Québec unemployment rate, namely 7.8% in 2011, is now comparable to that of Ontario and Canada, and lower than that in the United States; this has not happened in more than 30 years;
- ▶ Unemployment has in fact been lower under a Liberal government in a period of economic crisis than under a PQ government during a period of growth;
- ▶ We have recovered 199% of the jobs lost during the recession, while this percentage stands at 141% in Ontario and only 54% in the United States;
- ▶ Since 2003, the standard of living enjoyed by Quebecers has increased more rapidly than that of our neighbors in the United States and in Ontario;
- ▶ The poverty rate among Québec families is the lowest in Canada.

Today, Québec is in position of strength with respect to affirming its economic presence. We have a clear and ambitious plan for Québec. We have set the objective of creating 250,000 jobs over the next five years and paring down unemployment to 6% by 2017. We will achieve full employment by 2017.

A total of 50,000 green jobs will be created – this represents one in five of the new jobs. These green jobs will help to reinforce Québec's position as a North American leader in the fight against climate change.

This objective also reflects the desire to build an inclusive society within which each and every individual is able to achieve his or her ambitions and to

express his or her talents. We want all Quebecers to be able to participate in and contribute to the economic vitality of Québec and to our society's outreach.

To achieve full employment, we must pool our efforts. We must support Québec-based businesses because these create jobs and wealth. We will put into play all of our economic sectors and implement springboards for development.

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## For international calibre businesses

In 2006, the government launched a major offensive to bolster innovation and research. Including the latest two Québec Research and Innovation strategies, more than \$2.3 billion has been directly injected each year, for a total investment by the Québec government of close to \$11.5 billion including tax credits and departmental base budgets.

Innovation remains a priority for the Liberal party. Accordingly, we will renew the Québec Research and Innovation Strategy when it matures in 2013, and build on the success of our mobilizing projects involving extensive collaboration between local researchers and businesses to work together on the development of marketable innovative products. The projects we will support will be linked to specific themes of excellence such as green technology, life sciences, aerospace, as well as information technology and communications (ITC).

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## For a modern manufacturing sector

The manufacturing sector requires special attention due to the fact that it must contend with fierce competition from emerging countries, the cautious economic revival of the United States and Europe, as well as with a Canadian dollar that is at par with its American counterpart. In order to accelerate the adaptation of our manufacturing sector to these new realities, support jobs, and conquer growing new markets, we will adopt a new Manufacturing Plan.

This action plan will bolster the efforts of Québec companies in three specific fields: innovation and marketing for new products, the development of new processes, and the penetration of new export markets.

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## For strong Québec companies

We will create the “*Québec Ambition Fund*”, a venture capital fund dedicated to financing strategic acquisitions by companies that are pursuing a foreign growth plan.

This new Fund will benefit from a capital injection of \$1 billion originating in equal parts from the government of Québec and Investissement Québec, and will be managed by the Crown Corporation. Private investment companies and worker funds will be invited to contribute to the

Fund, which will target areas of excellence in Québec including natural resources, aerospace, information technology and communications.

In order to foster the growth of Québec companies, we must implement competitive laws to govern head offices. A Liberal government will adopt measures enabling Québec companies to evaluate buyout offers and have the option to refuse, which is not presently the case. Similar to several American states that recognize myriad legal defenses against hostile takeovers, we will provide companies with the means to make the best possible decisions.

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## For family businesses that stay in the family

As Québec prepares to enter an intense period of shareholder transfers due to its aging population, a new Liberal government will enable the owners of Québec-based SMEs who are interested in selling their business to a member of their family to benefit from a capital gains tax exemption on the first \$750,000 in profits – this is presently only applicable on sales to third parties. In order to ensure the success and the intergenerational continuity of Québec-based SMEs, this tax benefit will be linked to a formal business succession plan.

Cognizant of the increasing value of farm operations, the Liberal government will increase the capital gains tax exemption from \$750,000 to \$1 million for Québec-based farming businesses that are transferred to a family member.

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## For creating wealth in Québec by attracting foreign investments

Québec boasts sizeable competitive advantages when it comes to attracting foreign investments. Investissement Québec has been mandated to prospect foreign investments, relying on a network of 11 foreign offices entrusted with the task of promoting Québec's assets. In order to attract more investments, we will orchestrate a structured and aggressive offensive on emerging markets that are enjoying tremendous growth.

Accordingly, we will increase the number of Investissement Québec experts in Québec delegations abroad in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Moscow, Rio, Mumbai, London and Paris. These new prospectors will be responsible for enhancing the process for attracting potential investors, and will specialize in activity sectors that relate to the Plan Nord and to Québec's sectors of excellence.

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## For opening new export horizons

Furthermore, thanks to the leadership of our Premier, Canada and the European Union are currently negotiating a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. We will organize a forum in the year following the finalization of the Agreement to determine the priorities and actions necessary for a global offensive, including targeted initiatives on a variety of European markets. The objective is clear: our companies must seize the business opportunities arising from this Agreement.

With the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Ontario; the negotiations under way in India towards a free trade agreement, the imminent signing of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union; and the implementation of a structured offensive in the BRIC countries; Québec is in an excellent position to stand out on the world economic stage.

Last November, the Premier launched Export Québec, aimed at propelling our companies towards new markets and generating spinoffs in Québec. Export specialists working on this project have been entrusted with helping Québec-based businesses develop, consolidate, and diversify their markets beyond Québec's borders. With Export Québec, we will conduct an offensive on markets that are enjoying strong growth in order to beneficially position our companies and thereby increase the outreach of Québec's creativity and talents internationally.

# 02

## FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL OF OUR TALENTS

The economy is increasingly reliant on knowledge and competencies.

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In order to fill tomorrow's job vacancies, we must place the emphasis on training in order to enable all Quebecers to satisfy the requirements of the labour market.

Faced with an aging population, we must focus all our energy on encouraging as many Quebecers as possible to join, reintegrate into and remain on the labour force. Increasing participation on the job market is a fundamental necessity in ensuring a prosperous Québec.

We want Quebecers to be able to participate in Québec's economic vitality.

According to a study conducted by Emploi Québec<sup>1</sup>, one third of the jobs that will be created here by 2020 will require professional (secondary) or technical (college) training. Nearly 40% of new jobs will call for a university education.

The challenge we will face in the coming years entails ensuring better cohesiveness between training and requirements of the job market in order to avoid a shortage of specialized labour that would hamper Québec's economic momentum. This is a sizeable challenge.

Emploi Québec does not anticipate a generalized labour shortage by 2020. Nonetheless, some occupations, sectors and regions could suffer more than others from a lack of qualified workers. We must act now to avoid industry-based or regional shortages.

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<sup>1</sup> Emploi Québec, Le marché du travail au Québec, Perspective à long terme 2011-2020, September 2011.



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## For the development of the North and our outlying regions

We must adapt training to the needs of outlying regions and the Plan Nord in order to more quickly and effectively align them with the needs of workers and companies. This is necessary in order to increase economic growth and uphold public services.

A Liberal government will put in place distance training programs based on the needs of the Plan Nord and all Québec's outlying regions. A budget of \$50 million over five years will be allocated for this. Now more than ever, we need worker training to align with the needs of the labour market.

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## For youth employment

In order to help young welfare recipients who are under the age of 21 and fit to work to stop relying on social assistance, they will be systematically offered a game plan for returning to work, while the current options are voluntary. In addition to ensuring a rapid intervention among young people, the Program calls for sustained personalized accompaniment designed for young people to be able to achieve the objectives set out in their job insertion plan.

In exchange for a young person's commitment to engage in an active employment process, he or she will have access to a financial incentive of \$120 per month that is additional to the funding they receive from the Welfare program. Nonetheless, any young person who does not want to be actively involved in finding a job will lose his or her entitlement to the \$120 in additional monthly support.

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## For encouraging single individuals to enter the labour market

In order to encourage single individuals to enter the labour market, a new Liberal government will also increase the maximum annual working premium.

We will increase the number of single individuals who have access to the work premium by expanding the eligibility criteria. Accordingly, close to 30,000 more single individuals will be entitled to benefit from this incentive to work and thereby increase their take-home pay.

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## For encouraging experienced workers to stay on the job

We will offer additional measures to motivate and help experienced workers to extend their active lives, and support companies that hire senior workers.

We will lower the eligibility age to 62 for the tax credit of up to \$1500 for experienced workers. This means that an additional 100,000 people will benefit.

We will also adopt a global strategy aimed at keeping experienced workers on the job. With a total budget of \$426 million over three years, this strategy will involve two key measures, namely:

- ▶ A payroll tax reduction of up to \$1000 for companies that employ individuals aged 65 and over;
- ▶ New salary support for hiring and integrating experienced workers aged 55 and over into the workplace.

Finally, starting the first year of the new mandate, the Premier will invite all partners on the labour market to attend a provincial conference on work organization in order to better adapt the labour markets to the realities of experienced workers.

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## For facilitating the integration of new immigrants into the job market

In order to accelerate the economic integration of new immigrants, we will put in place a number of measures that will be effective on several levels and implemented as soon as new immigrants are selected.



We will revise the immigrant selection grid in real time. It will be automatically adjusted when EmploiQuébec amends its Employment Outlook every year, which in turn will enable us to more easily select immigrants who are qualified to work in sectors where there is a short-term search of workers.

The immigrant selection grid will also be revised in order to award more points to applicants with validated job offers. Additional points will be awarded for job offers in outlying regions.

We will automatically issue the *Évaluation comparative des études effectuées hors du Québec* once a Québec Selection Certificate is issued in order for new immigrants to be able to look for work even before they arrive.

We will intensify our talks with the federal government to make it easier to issue student visas to those who register for trade school in Québec in sectors where the need for workers is greatest.

Students who complete these programs will have access to the *Programme de l'expérience québécoise* (Québec Experience Program) which facilitates the process for obtaining a Selection Certificate for immigrants who complete their training in Québec.

We will promote, among companies and employers, support and accompaniment programs in areas relating to managing diversity and the francization of immigrants in the workplace.

We will increase the number of foreign recruitment missions, known as Journées Québec (Québec Days), and diversify mission destinations.

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## For corporate daycare centres

We will do more to accelerate the return to work for the parents of young children by implementing a work-family reconciliation measure. Accordingly, we will support companies that are interested in creating daycare spaces in the workplace. These will be additional to the 15,000 spaces already being developed within the network of Québec daycare centres. The government will grant these companies a tax credit equivalent to 50% of recurring operating costs for daycare services. Companies will be responsible for covering any real estate costs.

# 03

## FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Québec is overflowing with natural resources that represent one of our main springboards for job creation and economic development.

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In the current global economic context, Québec can only benefit from enhancing its natural resources to benefit present and future generations. The evolution of the global economy will stimulate demand for raw materials and energy as well as for farming and bio-food products for years to come. Québec has all it needs to make the most of this strong international demand, which will result in firmer prices for raw materials and farm products.

We will pursue the enhancement of our resources within the context of sustainable economic development in order to benefit all regions throughout Québec.

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## For protecting the North

In 2008 we promised to dedicate 50% of the surface area of the territory comprising the Plan Nord, representing more than 600,000 km<sup>2</sup>, to environmental protection, preservation of biodiversity, enhancement of natural heritage, and numerous types of development that do not rely on industrial operations by 2035. Furthermore, we promised to convert 20% of the territory into protected zones by 2020, thereby achieving the objective set by the Nagoya International Conference for Québec.

We will fulfill our commitment in keeping with a legislative text of Bill 65, which will be tabled again in the very near future following the election. We intend to clarify the sections that may have led to confusion when the Bill was initially presented.

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## For investments in the Plan Nord

The Plan Nord is a sustainable development model that will make it possible to enhance our natural resources while respecting the environment and the ecosystems, and with a view to benefiting all Quebecers.

The Plan Nord will unfold over a period of 25 years. It will require investments of more than \$80 billion and make it possible to create and sustain an average of 20,000 jobs per year for 25 years.

The Plan Nord involves all of our energy, mining and forestry resources, thereby enabling us to satisfy international demand for natural resources.

In order to increase the economic benefits of the Plan Nord and all of the natural resources that are exploited under its terms, the government has:

- ▶ Increased the royalties paid by mining companies, which today are 20% higher than the Canadian average;
- ▶ Provided Investissement Québec with a budget of \$200 billion to secure involvement in emerging projects;
- ▶ Required a financial investment from the mining industry towards the development of northern infrastructures.

In addition to investing in the Plan Nord using our collective tools, we will be enabling Quebecers to directly invest in Plan Nord projects by creating the "Plan Nord Savings".

We will introduce a tax credit for the development of the Plan Nord totaling up to \$500 for an annual maximum investment of \$5000 in financial products devised by the Fonds des travailleurs et Capital régional and coopératif Desjardins (CRCD). These financial products will mainly comprise a portfolio of companies involved in the rollout of the Plan Nord.

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## For a Plan Nord university network

One of the main focuses of the Plan Nord entails rising to the challenge of labour training. The availability of high-calibre university level training across Plan Nord territory translates into lower education costs for Northern residents who will not have to relocate in order to pursue their studies.

To achieve this, we will make an investment in the launch of a Réseau universitaire du Plan Nord that will unite Québec's universities in order for northern residents to have access to high-quality university training, and for the faculties based in the Southern region of the province to offer training that takes into consideration the unique characteristics of the North. The members of this network will also be engaged to accelerate ecological planning through research chairs.

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## For a sustainable and innovative forestry industry

In its 2012-2013 budget, our government announced a contribution of more than \$500 million during each of the next five years to support forestry operations and management. This is equivalent to more than \$2.5 billion between 2012 and 2017. Thanks to annual investments of \$200 million in forestry operations, 10,000 jobs will be supported and will enable a long-term labour supply for forestry companies.

We will also continue to support the traditional sawmill, pulp and paper industries in order to improve the competitiveness of our companies.

Moreover, we will put in place our new forestry plan that calls for major changes to forestry management practices in Québec. This will translate into new governance aimed at increasing community participation; it defines an approach that is respectful of the environment; and it increases access to wood products for a large number of companies.

This marks the first in the history of Québec, and will make it possible to manage forests in an integrated manner, and while responding to the needs of the forestry industry and those of the many users of the territory.

We also announced the Fonds Valorisation Bois (\$170 million over five years) for projects with high added value; an additional \$30 million over five years to

promote the use of wood for construction; as well as \$3 million to support the export of forestry products. It is also important to mention investments of more than \$9 million to improve the development of hardwood forests, which represents a daunting challenge that will significantly impact sector industries.

Under the terms of the *Stratégie de transformation de l'industrie des produits forestiers*, by 2017 we will have invested more than \$268 million in the development of a forestry industry that is modern, diversified, innovative and adapted to the evolution of markets. We will focus on the creation of added value for wood products by encouraging green construction, sustainable chemistry, and the use of forestry biomass to produce green energy.

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## For support for food processing

For several years now, our government has offered financial encouragement for efforts to promote and spotlight bio-food products on Québec markets and around the world. This approach has produced promising results however we believe that we must step up this offensive. We intend to invest additional amounts to emphasize and promote the competitive advantages of our bio-food industry, which is a key industry in all of Québec's regions.

# 04

## FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR REGIONS, OUR METROPOLIS AND OUR CAPITAL CITY

Our government has significantly contributed to economic development and job creation in outlying regions.

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In order to achieve full employment, we will put into play all of our key economic development springboards to stimulate economic activity in outlying regions. Accordingly, in addition to developing an innovative manufacturing sector and enhancing our natural resources that benefit all regions, we will develop our tourism and cultural industries in addition to placing special emphasis on the provincial capital and the metropolis.

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## For a provincial capital that is reflective of excellence and action

The CapitaleNationale region is brimming with ambition. It boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and one of the most sustained economic growth rates. It is a virtual explosion of research and innovation activities, culture, and athletics, in addition to being an international tourism and event-based destination. Québec City is an inspiring model of development.

The Liberal government has introduced major projects in the region. We have supported investment projects of unprecedented magnitude, such as the expansion of the Centre de foires et du Centre des congrès, the modernization of Aéroport international JeanLesage, the Super PEPS and the new pavilion for the Musée national des beaux-arts, not to mention the major investments we made in the celebrations surrounding Québec City's 400th anniversary.

We are committed to pursuing this trend and to producing infrastructures that will enhance the international outreach of the Capitale-nationale region. A new Liberal government will support the construction of a new multipurpose amphitheater, namely Théâtre Le Diamant, the restoration of the Nouvelles Casernes, and Phase III of promenade Samuel De Champlain. The provincial capital will be able to rely on an investment of more than \$330 million for these projects.

In order to pursue this productive partnership with the region:

- ▶ We will launch Phase IV of the Promenade Samuel De Champlain project by starting work during our next term. This phase will extend along the shoreline between the D'Estimauville district and chute Montmorency.
- ▶ We would also like to encourage the public to take part in the vitality of the Québec City region by engaging in high quality physical, community, cultural and recreational activities in order to enjoy an active lifestyle in an active region.

Accordingly, we will participate in the development of infrastructures in and around the CapitaleNationale region that will enhance the quality of life enjoyed by families. We will also allocate financing to support the project to erect a covered skating oval in Québec City.

We are proud to be partners with the Capitale-nationale region. Thanks to these promises, we are hopeful that it will continue to shine brightly while reflecting excellence, performance and action.

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## For Montréal, a North American metropolis of the future

Montréal is the driving economic force in Québec and never before has the government invested so much in health, with projects like the CHUM and the CUSM, as well as in cultural initiatives such as the Maison de l'OSM and the Quartier des spectacles, not to mention education, public transit, infrastructures and economic development in order to provide the support that is necessary to offer citizens the best possible services in addition to contributing to its international outreach.

The Montréal region will greatly benefit from the Québec Liberal Party platform, whether with respect to developing the manufacturing industry, increasing the outreach of our culture and creativity, building an international calibre tourism industry, and completing the overhaul of our road network and healthcare system.

Our platform also includes specific measures for the Montréal region, specifically with regard to the celebrations surrounding the 375th anniversary of the founding of Montréal which coincides with the 50th anniversary of Expo '67 and the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation.

Accordingly, \$25 million were allocated in the last budget to support repairs and renovations at the Biodôme, the Botanical Garden and the Insectarium, as well as at Parc Jean Drapeau, Saint-Joseph Oratory and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. We will invest an additional \$55 million specifically to assist the City in the organization of celebrations surrounding the milestone we will celebrate in 2017, and to enhance historical sites.

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## For Montréal, a green city

To bolster the quality of life enjoyed by Montréal residents and to improve the tourism experience enjoyed by visitors, we also intend to pursue our massive investments in public transit. The number of kilometres covered by local lanes reserved for public transit vehicles (buses, taxis, and carpools) on the Island of Montréal will increase from 180 km to 480 km. Furthermore, we will invest an additional \$325 million into the Metro stations, which are symbolic of Expo '67, throughout the metropolis.

In order to battle traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, we will pursue the development of incentive parking that encourages the use of public transit, particularly in the greater Montréal region. The availability of incentive parking is fundamental to the people living in the suburbs making the decision to use public transit.

We will also pursue the electrification of the passenger transportation system by financially supporting taxi owners who are intent on acquiring an electric or hybrid vehicle by reimbursing the difference in purchase price between an

electric or hybrid vehicle and a vehicle in a comparable category that runs on fuel. Greener taxis will help to enhance Montréal's image and to promote Québec's leadership with respect to sustainable mobility.

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## For tourism development in all of Québec's regions

The tourism industry currently generates \$11 billion in tourist revenue and 416,000 jobs distributed among 30,000 companies. Taking into consideration the growth of world tourism, Québec has the opportunity to increase its market share and create additional wealth in all regions of Québec.

The new Liberal government will support the development of tourist attractions while ensuring the launch of the Investissement Québec Tourisme division whose task will be to allocating to SMEs in the tourism industry the \$85 million presented in the 2012-2013 Budget. This new division will grant loans and loan guarantees to a maximum of \$2 million, which will help to finance working capital as well as the needs of entrepreneurs ranging from equipment to real estate. The majority of the projects that are selected will be based outside Montréal and Québec City.

The Québec Liberal Party will place the tourism industry at the heart of the economic development of Québec's regions, mainly by giving hotel operators working outside the Montréal and Québec City census areas the financial leverage they need to modernize and enhance the quality of their facilities.

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## For cultural promotion as a catalyst for the economic development of our regions

Our government will adopt several measures to increase the outreach of our culture across the entire province.

In 2011, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Ministère des Affaires culturelles. More than half a century after this initiative, which was introduced by Jean Lesage's Liberal government, culture and communications represent 4.1% of GDP, or \$10 billion. Culture accounts for more than 130,000 jobs.

Québec films benefit from an enviable reputation at our cinemas and on international screens. From this perspective, we will create an assistance program for Québécois film distributors in order to carve a special niche for local cinema on screens across the region, thereby giving all Quebecers access to our cinematographical productions.

We will increase the budget for multidisciplinary broadcasters by several million dollars. This new financial assistance will enable these organizations, which are present across Québec, to include in their programming a higher percentage of shows by Québec companies in the fields of song, theatre, dance, and music.

Finally, within the context of evolving media and information technologies, we will create, in the form of a pilot project, a web media network whereby local and regional news will be produced by existing community media. This information platform, which will be managed by TéléQuébec, will create links between all of Québec's regions, while also complying with recognized journalistic criteria, particularly editorial independence and ethics. This measure will result the improved broadcast of regional news.

# 05

## FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR FAMILIES

Thanks to the family policies put forth by our government, Québec has become an excellent place to raise a family.

We introduced the parental insurance plan and reintroduced family allowance. We developed the daycare network and improved the refundable tax credit for day care expenses, thereby eliminating the difference between \$7-a-day day care and non-subsidized day care services.

We have committed to investing in the development of daycare services at companies, which represents a work-family reconciliation measure enabling the parents of young children to re-enter the workforce much faster. We have also significantly improved services and taxation to benefit seniors.

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## For ensuring the longevity of quality day care services

A Liberal government will ensure the longevity of daycare services by indexing the daily contribution made by parents to the inflation rate during its next term, namely over the next five years. We will use the additional amounts that are collected throughout the network to bolster service quality.



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## For validating the roles of natural caregivers

In order to enable our seniors to live at home and in their communities longer, natural caregivers will now be able to benefit from better financial support with the increased refundable tax credit to which they are entitled every year.

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## For promoting the acquisition of inter-generational properties

Within the current demographic context, we have decided to invest to make sure that seniors benefit from healthy living environments that are safe and affordable, in their own communities. Living at home for as long as possible, in the same residence or in their community, is the first choice for most of our seniors.

We are choosing to support families that acquire an intergenerational home or renovate a property to convert it into an intergenerational property.

# 06

## FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Education is the key to our future prosperity. Since 2003, our government has taken action on several fronts to encourage academic success.

We have put in place an ambitious plan for academic perseverance; invested significant amounts in specialized resources; lowered the number of students per class; reintroduced a single number report card, reinforced the teaching of English as a second language; added an hour of English as a second language instruction; added one hour of teaching at the elementary level; and launched an extensive restoration plan for our academic infrastructures. We have also adopted a financial overhaul plan for our universities.

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## For all the back-to-school essentials

Because academic success starts with a schoolbag containing all the necessary materials, the parents of students attending a public elementary school will, starting in September 2013, be able to count on non-taxable financial assistance of \$100 per child, to be used towards the purchase of school supplies. Our objective is to ensure that all children registered for elementary schools in the public system have access to the material resources that are necessary for their success, in addition to providing families with additional financial assistance.



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## For supporting homework help

After creating the very first Homework Assistance program, we will now improve it by doubling its funding in order to enable the development of programs that are more flexible and more compatible with parents' work schedules. The improved program will also offer increased access and a new support service during exam periods.

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## For promoting entrepreneurialism in high school

The Introduction to Entrepreneurship course will be offered to all students enrolled in the Secondary 4 and 5 levels. Québec is recognized for its entrepreneurial fibre. In order to develop an entrepreneurial culture among young people, every school in Québec will offer the *Introduction to Entrepreneurship* course to all students enrolled in Secondary 4 and 5. In this course, students will have the opportunity to meet with entrepreneurs in order to better appreciate the scope of the challenges they face and to share their passion.

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## For encouraging community involvement

Québec society has been made richer on several fronts thanks to the values of social justice, mutual assistance, and solidarity that drive us as a people. It is important to ensure that these values perpetuate. We will add 10 hours of community volunteer work to the requirements of the "Contemporary World" course given in Secondary 5.

By engaging in volunteer activities, young people develop a sense of community involvement and mutual assistance, both of which are fundamental values in our society.

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## For the excellence of our universities and our graduates

In order to ensure a bright future for Québec, our universities must offer academics that satisfy the loftiest standards. The Québec Liberal Government intends to go ahead with its plan to invest in quality of Québec universities adopted in 2011. This plan calls for investments that will cap more than \$1 billion by 2018/2019.

By the time the tuition increase is fully implemented, students will be covering 17% of their university tuition; the remaining 83% will be covered by taxpayers.

Our plan will make it possible to increase access to education:

- ▶ The maximum family income for parental contribution exemption used to calculate study bursaries will increase from \$30,000 to \$45,000.
- ▶ More than 50% of full-time university students will be entitled to financial assistance.
- ▶ 67,000 university students will be entitled to bursaries that are equivalent or higher than the tuition increase.

The tuition fee increase will be spread over a period of seven years instead of five. The annual increase in tuition will therefore drop from \$325 to \$254 per year.

Financial assistance is equivalent to tuition and educational materials for all students from families whose income is below \$100,000. A repayment mechanism for students that is proportional to income (RPR) will come into effect in September 2013.

## 07

## FOR ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Since 2003, our government has significantly improved healthcare services by injecting additional funds totaling more than \$11 billion into the system.

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The number of admissions to medicine programs has nearly doubled. Two new campuses offering training in medicine have been opened.

The amounts invested in maintaining and developing healthcare infrastructures have significantly increased. Major construction is underway at the CHUM, the CUSM, the CHU Sainte-Justine and Hôtel-Dieu in Québec.

Tangible progress has been made. Overall, the number of people waiting for surgery has dropped by close to 50%. For heart surgery, the number of patients on a waiting list has dropped by 31%. While 26% of patients previously waited more than 6 months for cataract surgery, this rate now stands at less than 4%. Finally, more than 99% of people with cancer receive their radio-oncology treatments in less than 4 weeks and nobody is forced to seek treatment across the border.

Our government has drastically improved the performance and efficiency of the healthcare system. Nonetheless, phenomenon such as an aging population and a rising birthrate continue to exert daunting pressure on our healthcare system. We will continue our efforts to improve access to services.

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## For adolescent dental care

In order to reinforce healthy lifestyle habits among youths and better support families, we will increase the age of eligibility for dental coverage by the *Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec* (RAMQ) from 10 to 16. The aim of this measure is to improve oral and dental health among teens, which in turn will impact their general health and their well-being.

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## For the consolidation of ambulance services across all regions

We will invest several million dollars to support the consolidation of pre-hospital emergency services across all regions of Québec. Depending on the region, this could translate into the addition of vehicles, extra work hours, or amended work schedules.

We will also put in place a helicopter ambulance service as a result of a major investment in order to provide the emergency treatment required by certain patients within the shortest possible timeframe.

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## For a transition towards telehealth services

Telehealth services allow patients to receive highly specialized services without having to travel to major hospital centres. Accordingly, more procedures, more consultations, and better follow-up will be provided while ensuring that state-of-the-art expertise is accessible to all Quebecers. We will also be able to develop an in-home telehealth network that will give patients better control over their conditions.

To do so, we will invest in the implementation of new projects. It is important to note that in the end, the introduction of telehealth in Québec will help to optimize the system so that the savings generated largely compensate for the initial investment.

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## **For comparing wait lists for specialized physicians**

We will create a Web portal that Quebecers can visit to ascertain and compare the wait times for each specialist physician before undergoing a procedure. This measure will serve to better inform Quebecers and offer the opportunity for those who are interested to choose a specialist with a short wait time.

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## **For better supporting the chronically ill**

A Liberal government will better support the chronically ill by putting in place a model that will entrust nurses with the coordination of care services that must be provided by different healthcare professionals.

To support nurses in this task we will support the development of initiatives and clinical protocols that aim to improve the management of those who are chronically ill.

In order to ensure that complete control is maintained over these patients, we will put in place a model for monitoring the chronically ill in the community by means of house calls. Some patients cannot rely on the support and accompaniment of their entourage, so following up on the chronically ill in the community will make it possible to ensure that each patient is complying with his or her treatment plan, that medication is being used correctly, and that any deterioration in health condition is immediately reported.

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## **For improving the living environments for seniors residing at a CHSLD facility**

Our government has significantly improved the quality of life enjoyed by seniors with the Politique Vivre et Vieillir ensemble and the implementation of an integrated service plan. We will do more, especially for individuals with failing autonomy.

We will invest in the renovation of long-term residential care centres (CHSLD) across the province in order to foster more pleasant, more user-friendly, and safer living environments for our seniors.

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## **For accelerating the launch of intermediary resources**

Individuals with failing autonomy want to live at home for as long as possible. If however this is not possible, intermediary resources can provide a living environment that corresponds to patients' level of autonomy, while also ensuring indispensable medical support. This is why we want to add additional spaces in intermediary resources for these individuals.

# 08

## FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

The emergence of environmental awareness is probably one of the most important transformations our society has made in the past 20 years.

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Everything is shifting, from the economy, to consumerism, to transportation, to our resources.

Since 2003, the government has served as a diapason for citizens by launching the virtual repositioning of Québec, which is emerging today as the North American leader in sustainable development and in the battle against climate change

Our achievements in this area are numerous and include the following:

- ▶ We adopted the Sustainable Development Act, and amended the charter of Human Rights and Freedoms in order to guarantee the right to live in a healthy environment;
- ▶ We adopted an initial plan for the fight against climate change; it has been acclaimed as one of the best in the world;
- ▶ We adopted a second plan for the fight against climate change that led us to the objective of a 20% reduction of GHG emissions by 2024 with a total budget of \$2.7 billion;
- ▶ We implemented a development plan for clean and renewable energy, which will make Québec a North American leader;
- ▶ We announced the development of biomethanization facilities in municipalities;
- ▶ We instituted severe anti-pollution measures for cars (Californian standards) and shored up sanctions for heavy vehicles;
- ▶ We launched a public transit development plan resulting in a 19% increase in service supply during the period from 2006 to 2009;
- ▶ We launched a plan to foster the transition to electric vehicles and the electrification of public transit;
- ▶ We announced the launch of the new sustainable mobility policy in the fall.
- ▶ We launched a public transit development plan that resulted in a 19% increase in the service supply between 2006 and 2009;
- ▶ We announced the launch of the new sustainable mobility policy in the fall.

Finally, we joined the *Western Climate Initiative* (WCI) alongside California, Ontario and British Columbia. This group is committed to implementing an ambitious carbon market. This tool is recognized as being one of the most efficient and least expensive economic tools with respect to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our involvement on this market will make it possible to develop new industrial avenues in Québec and enable our facilities to be at the forefront of the new green economy.

We are pursuing this trend in order to consolidate Québec's leadership with regards to sustainable development.

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## For encouraging green home renovations

We will introduce financial assistance to encourage families to carry out renovation work on their homes that will positively impact the environment. This new fiscal measure will allow homeowners who carry out green renovations to obtain a tax credit corresponding to nearly 20% of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$3000.

In addition to fostering the economic growth of Québec, this program will help encourage renovations that positively impact the environment and improve the energy efficiency of 35,000 homes. Green renovation involves work that serves to repair, maintain and improve a home so as to bolster its energy efficiency and environmental rating for instance by insulating the roof or replacing the windows. To be eligible for this program, the renovations must be completed by a recognized contractor, and the messages must be occupied by the owner and his or her principal and regular place of residence.

To accelerate the launch of charging stations for electric vehicles, we will ensure that by 2017, 2000 stations will be available, including a minimum of 1000 at workplaces, in addition to those put in place for the people of the greater Montréal region, in Québec City, and in areas with a high population density.

# 09

## FOR MAINTAINING OWNERSHIP WITH RESPECT TO OUR CHOICES

The 2008 economic and financial crisis clearly demonstrated the importance of properly managing public finances in order for present and future generations to be able to own their destinies

By exercising farsighted and tight management of budget spending, we protected our public finances during the economic crisis without compromising the fundamental missions of the government, specifically with regard to healthcare and education.

Our budget deficit for fiscal 2012-2013 represents 0.4% of GDP. Our plan to balance the books calls for the elimination of the deficit in 2013-2014, which is three years earlier than Ontario.

Our sound management of public finances, namely our plan to balance the books, coupled with our determination to reduce the debt burden has been commended by rating agencies, which have confirmed Québec's credit score.

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## For accelerated debt repayment

We will accelerate payments to the Generations Fund by allocating 100% of revenues from mining, gas and petroleum royalties net of equalization payments to the Generations Fund. This is in addition to all of our other debt reduction measures.

Furthermore, in the event of a budget surplus, our priority will be to inject any excess into the Generations On to accelerate public debt repayment. Contributions to the Generations Fund will make it possible to reduce the gross debt, which will drop from 55% of GDP to 45% of GDP in 2025.

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## For tightening the rules for doing business with the government

Once Parliament is back in session, we will table a bill to automatically block access to public contracts by construction entrepreneurs as soon as the latter are accused of a serious crime or of fraud. This bill will propose amendments so that:

- ▶ Any entrepreneur who is accused of a serious crime or of fraud will no longer have the privilege of bidding on government construction contracts;
- ▶ Any company with ties to a company operator or shareholder, even with minimum involvement in the company, will, if the latter is accused of a serious crime or fraud will lose the privilege of bidding on government construction contracts;
- ▶ If a person or company that is in the process of obtaining a license is accused of serious crime or of fraud, the license application process will be suspended;
- ▶ Any company operator or shareholder who is found guilty of a serious crime or fraud will lose the right to bid on public contracts;

- ▶ We will add additional criminal acts to the list of crimes listed in Act 35 including corruption, breach of trust, extortion, and conspiracy;
- ▶ The investigative powers of the Régie du bâtiment du Québec will be broadened specifically to better assist the UPAC.

The measures that have been announced will increase the awareness of the public, company operators and partners of the need to conduct the necessary due diligence before partnering with or entering into business with an individual or business.

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## Financial framework: a balanced budget by 2013-2014

Budgetary stringency and global uncertainty are factors that could not be overlooked in the development of our platform and financial framework. Ignoring these would be irresponsible to all Quebecers.

Our financial framework is entirely based on the financial framework for the 2012-2013 Budget. Our commitments are shaped and the ensuing costs established with a view to balancing the books by 2013-2014.

Accordingly, we will use the same estimates for calculating economic growth, as well as income and spending levels.

The financial framework presented in Québec's budgets always takes into consideration any "margin of manoeuvre for new budget initiatives". The annual impact as a result of this margin of manoeuvre was more than \$300 million over the last two budgets. Accordingly, the cumulative effect at the end of five years is \$1.5 billion.

Our election promises total \$1,073 B for a full year. We will add to this the \$150 million in mining royalties that we have promised to pay into the Generations Fund for the purposes of debt repayment, representing a total of \$1,223 B.

We will turn our promises into reality gradually over the five years of our term at a rate of \$245 million per year.

In 2014-2015 we will decrease spending from 3.0% (called for in the 2012-2013) to 2% thereby freeing a margin of more than \$60 million each year. We will achieve this by pursuing our efforts to control spending. Ministries, organizations and Crown Corporations will be called on to further streamline their administrative expenses, and new initiatives will be limited. Program relevance will be reevaluated on a regular basis.

Our plan to balance the books has enabled us to introduce lasting control over public spending. We succeeded in significantly slowing the increase in spending on programs, which dropped from 5.6% from 2006-2007 until 2009-2010, to 2.2% from 2010-2011 until 2013-2014. We will continue to responsibly manage public spending by implementing strict budgetary discipline while at the same time upholding services.

Investments in infrastructures are included in the Québec infrastructures plan.

This balanced and responsible management will help to release the funds necessary to maintain a balanced budget and finance the measures proposed in this platform.



## Financial impact of election promises by Year 5

### BUDGETARY MEASURES

PROMISES	FINANCIAL IMPACT (\$M)	FINANCING
Hiring and integration of experienced workers	-	2012-13 budget
Increased work premium for single individuals	20	
Immigrant selection grid	-	MICC budget
Systematic options for young people	22.8	
Corporate day care services	20	
\$100 for back-to-school supplies	45	
Improved homework help	20	
Management of surgery access lists	-	MSSS budget
Better control over the chronically ill or frequent users	47	
Expanded eligibility for dental coverage	58	
Training-job matching	10	
Plan Nord University network	3	
Increase in the number of foreign investment prospection delegates	5	
Courses in entrepreneurship	-	MELS budget
Volunteering	-	
Legacy - 375 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Montréal (\$15 million for celebrations)	15	MELS budget
Fonds de développement économique de Montréal	10	
Green taxis	7	
Charging stations for electric vehicles	-	Financed by partners
Upcoming announcements	376	\$M
Total	659	\$M

### FISCAL MEASURES

PROMISES	FINANCIAL IMPACT (\$M)	FINANCING
Tax credit for experienced workers	120	
Reduction in payroll taxes when hiring individuals aged 65+	-	2012-13 budget
Tax credit for "green" renovations	50	
Plan Nord Savings	10	
Family business transfer	60	
Upcoming announcements	56	\$M
Total	296	\$M

## MEASURES FINANCED BY DEBT SERVICE

PROMISES	FINANCIAL IMPACT (\$M)	FINANCING
Head offices: Fonds Ambitions Québec (\$500 M)	25	
Québec: Infrastructures (\$295 M)	20,65	
Vaudreuil-Soulanges logistics hub (\$500 M)	35	
Legacy - 375 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Montréal (\$40 M in infrastructures)	2,80	
Renovation of Metro stations (\$325 M)	22,75	
Addition of reserved lanes (\$35 M)	2,45	
Upcoming announcements	10	\$M
Total	119	\$M

## ADDITIONAL DEBT REPAYMENT MEASURES

PROMISES	FINANCIAL IMPACT (\$M)	FINANCING
100% of mining, gas and petroleum royalties for debt reduction	150	
100% of any budget surplus for debt reduction	-	
Total	150	\$M

<b>LPQ platform financial framework #QC2012</b>	<b>1 223</b>	<b>\$M</b>
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**FOR**  
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**FOR**  
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